



# SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

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ROBERT C. FLETCHER  
PRESIDENT

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The Honorable Susan Golding, Chair  
Blue Ribbon Task Force

Subject: Salmon Trolling in MPAs.

Dear Chairperson Golding:

I have been advised that members of the Science Advisory Team (SAT) have referred to a workshop in Monterey in November 2005 that I attended and stated that I was in agreement that salmon trolling in MPAs was not a appropriate gear because of the possibility of by-catch of other protected species in the MPA. This letter is by way of clarifying my recollection of that 'Benthic-Pelagic Linkages' workshop, and the positions taken by the recreational fishing representatives at that workshop.

By way of introduction, I am the President of the Sportfishing Association of California (SAC) and have been involved in fisheries management organizations for many years, including the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission to name a few. I was also a working member of the Marine Reserves Working Group for the northern Channel Islands until they were disbanded.

During the Benthic-Pelagic Linkages workshop in question, we were discussing a specific example of an MPA that included a small corner where rocky bottom approached the 50 meter depth line. In that specific example if salmon trolling was allowed down to 50 meters, and if a fisherman was trolling down to a depth of 50 meters, the potential for by-catch of bottom dwelling rockfish was real. From my understanding of the comments it appears that the SAT team members used some 'poetic license' and characterized the recreational representatives' comments as a 'broad brush' statement that by-catch by salmon trollers in MPAs will have a negative impact on other species, which I never would have supported. In my mind this unique and very rare possible example of by-catch is miles away from scientifically supported evidence of a problem.

I hope this helps clarify this issue.

Sincerely,

  
Bob Fletcher, President